

group psychology

defined:

The American Board of Group Psychology (ABGP)

The American Board of Group Psychology (ABGP) is a Specialty Board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). ABGP is a merged Board, comprised of the American Board of Group Psychology, and the American Academy of Group Psychology. The ABGP Board and Academy are responsible for establishing criteria related to the definition, education, training, competencies, and the examination leading to certification as a specialist in Group Psychology. The ABGP and Academy are governed by members board certified in group psychology, and representative of the specialty on a national basis.

Group Psychology

Group psychology is the application and practice of group theory, research, and technique to the assessment and intervention of problems and the enhancement of functioning to individuals, groups, organizations, or systems. Group psychologist specialists practice in health service applications and organizations as well as public and private agencies and business settings.

Certification in Group Psychology

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the group psychologist specialist has successfully completed the educational, training, and experience requirements of the specialty including an examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in group psychology. Specialties, by definition, are advanced levels of practice including doctoral and post-doctoral preparation. A description of the general doctoral degree and licensure requirements for certification follows together with the specific requirements of the group psychology specialty.

Requirements for Board Certification Board

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the specialist in group psychology has met the education, training and experience requirements, as well as demonstrating the advanced competencies required by the specialty through an individualized, peer reviewed examination. The examination encompasses the following interrelated domains of professional competency.

Assessment and Intervention

The assessment and intervention competencies related to the practice of group psychology specialty are fundamental aspects of the examination. Two samples of the candidate's practice are submitted and reviewed together with the candidate's pattern of practice through his/her Professional Statement.

Science Base and Application

The science or discipline base of the specialty is the appropriate application of that base to the contemporary practice of group psychology, including the applicants awareness of theory and research pertaining to issues of diversity e.g. ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, family cultural issues, and family populations.

Ethics and Legal Foundations

The awareness and appropriate exercise of ethical and legal standard. This includes the APA Ethical Principles and current statutory provisions and case law precedents applicable for the protection of the interests of families, the profession, and society.

Professional Identification

The Candidate is expected to demonstrate meaningful involvement with the profession in general and the specialty in particular.

Consultation and Supervision

These competency areas have emerged as significant areas of practice for many specialties and are often applicable when the specialists pattern of practice include them in an important way.

"The shared collegueship has been really terrific. The rewards inherent in studying hard and earning an extra credential were much amplified by the professional relationships I have maintained by being actively involved in the ABPP process. It is a relief to know I could move from my home state to another state or province and not have to re-take the licensing exam. As I have mentioned already, I have come to value my ongoing relationship with my group colleagues and the ABPP leaders generally, who strike me as a very dedicated bunch."

- Sally Barlow, PhD, ABPP

ABPP Central Office

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Fees

\$125 fee for application and credential review to establish candidacy.
\$250 fee for the practice sample review and establishment of the oral examination team.
\$450 for the oral examination.

These fees are due sequentially over the time span necessary to complete all of the candidacy and examination steps. Upon granting Board certification a yearly fee of \$185 is assessed to support the many services of the ABPP and the representation of the organization to the public and